

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA W	FORM NO. 581
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wn Lexington

dress 56 Allen Street

storic Name Munroe-Roberts-Frost

Farmhouse

e: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

te c. 1811

stylistic analysis;

Source Hudson 1913, II:472

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric shingle; brick

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) two rear

two-story ells; lean-to on east ell

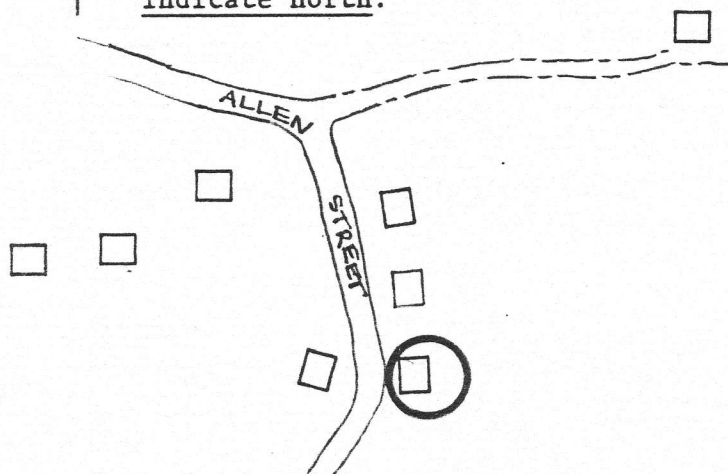
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage .5 A.

Setting On quiet back street (see Allen Street area form); across from large Federal barn formerly part of this property (see Carroll farm area form); and near 1960s houses.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This Federal brick-ended house with end chimneys is one of five such houses in the South Lexington area (see 130 Pleasant Street, 177 Concord Avenue, 272 Concord Avenue, and 503 Concord Avenue forms) and the only one with both brick ends still visible. It has a low hip roof, like the houses at 272 Concord Avenue and 130 Pleasant Street, and retains some of its exterior finishes, particularly the Federal trim on either side of the front door and the window surrounds on all except the west first-story windows.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to an antiquarian account, this farm was originally owned by Hezekiah Smith (1706-1760), ^{father of Joseph Smith at 29 Allen Street and} a brother and uncle of the Josiah Smith in the house at 26 Blossom Street and uncle of the Abraham Smith in the house at 92 Blossom Crest Street (see forms for these houses). The farm was then sold to Ebenezer Munroe (1744-1826), who fought in the Battle of Lexington and served in the New Jersey campaign in 1776. The next owner was Ebenezer Munroe's son John (1785-1865), who married in 1811, suggesting a very probable date for the construction of this house. After John Munroe's death, the farm was sold to Moses H. Roberts, a farmer who moved to Lexington in 1868 and who, in 1906, still owned the house and farmed the land. Later in the twentieth century it was owned by Laurie Frost and known as the Frost farm.

The house has had some alterations over the years, most notably the two two-story gabled-roofed ells on the rear, apparently added at different times (since they are joined by a curious flat roof), but before 1923, when they are visible in a photograph. This photo also shows the house with a balustraded porch, now gone.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End" (1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II (1900):115.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington II, pp. 467, 472, 634. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

1876 map

1889 map

1906 map

1887 Directory

1906 Directory